

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Dai Viet Party Ranks

1. Sympathizer (Ban). To become a Sympathizer, a candidate must be recommended by two friends of the next higher grade in the party.
2. Neophyte (Du Bi Dang Vien). The rank of Neophyte requires the recommendation of four friends.
3. Member (Dang Vien).
4. Militant (Chien Si). This rank depends upon party seniority, age, experience, abilities, and intelligence. Prominent men holding this rank are Phan Huy Quat, Defense Minister, and Le Thang, Minister of Social and Public Works.
5. Cell Leader. A cell leader is automatically a member of the party's Central Committee. A cell usually consists of from ten to one hundred militants. The most prominent cell leaders are Dang Van Sung and Nguyen Ton Hoan.
6. Leader. This rank is reserved for only one member of the party. Truong Tu Anh was the party Leader until 1945 when he disappeared and was probably killed by the Viet Minh. From 1946 to 1948, the party Leader was Dang Vu Lac, who died of illness in 1948. The rank of party leader is currently unfilled.

Contenders for Party Leadership

7. There are six serious contenders for the leadership of the Dai Viet Party today, the most prominent of whom are Sung and Hoan.<sup>1</sup> These two men parted after the death of Dr. Lac over the issue of cooperation with the Vietnamese Government. Hoan has no confidence in Bao Dai or his governments, and believes they are incapable of obtaining Vietnamese independence. He refuses to allow himself or his followers to participate in government activities. Sung believes that

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participation in government activities is useful and necessary to remain abreast of political developments, to find means for accomplishing party aims, and to protect the party against government action. Soon after Quat became Defense Minister, he secured the release from prison of Pham Thai, a prominent party member who had been arrested for complicity in the assassination of General Chanson.<sup>2</sup>

#### Party Discipline

8. Without a leader, party discipline is nebulous because there is no single source of authority unless the Central Committee happens to arrive at a unanimous decision. Usually a Cell Leader may advise a Militant to take a certain course of action, but he cannot order him to do so. Exceptions concerning certain party matters do exist, as follows: if a Cell Leader instructs a Militant to develop a certain contact for a specific purpose, the Militant is bound by the Cell Leader's instructions; if, however, a Militant develops a contact on his own initiative or for purposes of friendship, his Cell Leader has no authority other than moral over him.

#### Party Front Organizations

9. There are currently no front organizations run by the party. Nguyen Ton Hoan had organized the neophytes of South Vietnam into a front called Thanh Nien Bao Quoc Doan, but this organization was dissolved by the Tran Huu Government. The Mat Tran Quoc Gia Binh Dan front organized by Le Thang in North Vietnam has been dissolved.

#### Party Ideology

10. The party ideology is embodied in a document by Truong Tu Anh called Dan Toc Sinh Ton.<sup>3</sup> The principles of Capitalism, Communism, and the Three Principles of Sun Yat-sen are all presented and rejected therein in favor of a strong nationalism which verges on racism. It therefore follows that the nation as a mystical unity must serve as the base for all political, social, economic, and military organization.

#### Party Doctrine

11. Vietnam needs to experience a period of strong dictatorship similar to Japan and Germany to weld the Vietnamese people into a nation and develop national traditions and unity. Following this period of nationalization, it will then be possible to introduce democratic institutions. To introduce democracy and hold national elections before the national spirit is well-formed is dangerous and exposes the nation to the conquest of a foreign ideology such as Communism. The dictatorship must be monolithic. The Party feels there are no serious challengers to its eventual control over the country other than the "French" Vietnamese. It is expected that remnants of the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, Duy Dan, Cong Giao Xa Hoi, and Cach Men Dong Minh Hoi may be either absorbed or disregarded, while the Binh Xuyen and Hoa Hao may be bought. The only serious problem is the Cao Dai, which will be difficult to integrate because of its religious foundation.

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1. ☐ Comment. Source refused to identify the other four contenders for leadership.

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2. ☐ Comment. If Bao Dai turns out to be another "Sihanouk," Sung's line will have been completely justified and Sung would probably become the party leader.

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3. ☐ Comment. Source's translation into French: "Le peuple reste toujours."

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